Perishing of foodgrains and vegetables due to shortage of cold storages

†2055. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of foodgrains, pulses and vegetables etc. that perishes in transit before reaching to consumer from the field of farmers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 30 per cent of foods and vegetables go waste due to shortage of cold stores;

(c) whether it is also a fact that out of total wastage from 15 to 30 per cent go wastes due to weeds and improper pesticides;

(d) if so, whether Government would take any step to provide sufficient information and training to farmers in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) On wastage of foodgrains and vegetables due to various factors, only sporadic survey/study data is available. Government of India constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. V.C. Panse, the then member of Planning Commission for assessment of Post harvest losses in foodgrains. As per Panse Committee report (1966), total post harvest losses in foodgrains have been assessed as 9.33% out of which losses during transportation were estimated as 0.15%.

The percentage of foodgrains, pulses losses on an average ranges from 8 to 10 per cent and 10 to 30 per cent in respect of vegetables. The number of cold storages has increased from 4541 (December 2003) to 5316 (December, 2007) which helps to reduce wastage of food and vegetables.

(d) to (e) Government is promoting technology developed by Central Institute of Post Harvest "Engineering and Technology (CIPHET) Ludhiana and All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Post Harvest Management which are being demonstrated to farmers. Awareness and training programme on Post harvest management is also organized under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission for vegetables and also by National Horticulture Board an apex organization under Ministry of Agriculture.

Integrated policy for import of wheat and edible oils

2056.SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that need for formulating an integrated policy on importing wheat and edible oil is being felt;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to make adequate quantity of wheat and mustard seeds available to States under Food Safety Mission scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government is continuously monitoring the food situation in the country and policies regarding import of wheat and edible oil are being accordingly, formulated from the time to time, keeping in view the domestic production, consumption requirements, domestic and international prices, etc.

(c) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "National Food Security Mission" has been launched in view of the resolution of National Development Council (NDC) to launch a Food Security Mission in the country to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8, and 2 million tonnes, respectively by the end of XI plan.

The Mission aims at increasing production of rice, wheat and pulses through area expansion and productivity enhancement, restoring soil fertility and productivity, creating employment opportunities, and improving farm level economy to restore confidence of farmers of targeted districts.

Under NFSM, demonstration of improved production technology, distribution of quality seeds of High Yield Varieties (HYVs) and hybrids, popularization of newly released varieties is done.

Procurement of wheat

†2057. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wheat purchased for Kendriya Bhandar is in excess of the pool despite decreasing production of wheat in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's plan to check the falling production of wheat in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Production of wheat in last three crop years in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan is as follows:

(In lakh tonnes)

State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Uttar Pradesh	240.74	250.31	254.32
Madhya Pradesh	59.58	73.26	62.67
Rajasthan	58.65	70.56	71.25
All India	693.54	758.07	784.01

Procurement of wheat in last three Rabi Marketing Seasons in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan is as follows:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.